

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 10

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (Canceled).

Claim 2. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said spring comprises a deformable block of elastomeric material for absorbing energy imparted to said side bearing assembly and configured to position said friction member relative to said bolster surface.

Claim 3. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 2, wherein said friction member is arranged in operable combination with and positions said spring relative to said body member.

Claim 4. (Canceled)

Claim 5. (Canceled).

Claim 6. (Currently Amended) A constant contact side bearing assembly adapted to be arranged in combination with a railcar bolster having an upper surface, said side bearing assembly comprising:

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 11

a spring;

a body member having ~~wall structure~~ defining a recess wherein said spring is accommodated, with ~~the wall structure of~~ said body member being configured to fit within a walled receptacle on the upper surface of said railcar bolster, and wherein ~~the wall structure on~~ said body member and the walled receptacle ~~include~~ define a pair of confronting surfaces disposed to opposed sides of an axis defined by said side bearing assembly and extending generally normal to the upper surface on said bolster;

an apparatus operably engagable with said walled receptacle on said bolster and said body member for ~~locating said side bearing assembly~~ operably securing said body member against movement relative to said bolster; ~~said apparatus including an insert positionable between each pair of confronting surfaces on opposed sides of the side bearing assembly axis for inhibiting shifting movements of the body member of and locating said side bearing assembly relative to said bolster;~~ and

a friction member overlying one end of and for transmitting loads to said spring, with said friction member being guided structured for guided movements relative to said body member.

Claim 7. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 6 46, wherein at least one surface of each pair of confronting surfaces is inclined with respect to the other surface such that said surfaces diverge away from each other as

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 12

said surfaces extend away from said bolster surface adapted to be engaged by said spring whereby defining a wedge shaped opening therebetween, and wherein each insert has a wedge-shaped configuration which fits into said wedge-shape opening, and with each wedge-shaped insert being secured to said walled receptacle to inhibit ~~shifting movements~~ movement ~~of the walled receptacle of the body member relative to said bolster and, thus, locate~~ said side bearing assembly relative to said bolster.

Claim 8. (Canceled).

Claim 9. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 13, wherein said spring comprises a resilient spring block formed from an elastomer material.

Claim 10. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 9, wherein the generally flat railcar body engaging portion on said cap and the second end of said resilient block are configured with interlocking instrumentalities for securing said resilient block and said cap in operable combination relative to each other.

Claim 11. (Canceled).

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 13

Claim 12. (Canceled).

Claim 13. (Currently Amended) A constant contact side bearing assembly adapted to be arranged in combination with a railcar bolster with an upper surface, said side bearing assembly comprising:

a ~~walled~~ housing defining a recess, and wherein said ~~walled~~ housing and a ~~walled~~ receptacle on the upper surface of said bolster define a pair of confronting surfaces arranged on opposed sides of an axis defined by said side bearing assembly and extending generally normal to the upper surface of said bolster;

a spring accommodated within said ~~walled~~ housing;

inserts for operably securing the ~~walled~~ housing of and locating said side bearing assembly within the ~~walled~~ receptacle on and relative to said bolster, with at least one insert being positionable between said confronting surfaces on the ~~walled~~ receptacle and the ~~walled~~ said housing on each side of said side bearing axis for inhibiting ~~shifting movements~~ movement of the ~~walled~~ housing of said side bearing assembly relative to said bolster; and

a cap overlying one end of said spring, said cap being mounted for reciprocatory guided movements by and relative to said ~~walled~~ housing, with a generally flat railcar body engaging portion on said cap being positioned relative to said ~~walled~~ housing and said ~~walled~~ receptacle by said spring.

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 14

Claim 14. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 13, wherein at least one of said surfaces of each pair of confronting surfaces is inclined with respect to the other surface of each pair of confronting surfaces such that said surfaces diverge away from each other as said surfaces extend away from said bolster whereby defining a wedge shaped opening therebetween, and wherein one of said inserts is insertable into each wedge shaped opening defined by said confronting surfaces on said ~~walled~~ housing and said ~~walled enclosure receptacle~~ to inhibit ~~shifting movements~~ movement of the ~~walled~~ housing of side bearing assembly relative to said ~~walled enclosure receptacle~~.

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 14, wherein each insert is configured as a wedge shim.

Claim 16. (Canceled).

Claim 17. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein a distance ranging generally between 2.5 inches and 4.5 inches is measurable between the upper extreme of said side bearing assembly and said bolster surface after said side bearing assembly is accommodated in said receptacle.

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 15

Claim 18. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein said spring is configured such that an upper portion of said side bearing assembly is positioned above an upper extreme of the walls of said receptacle as long as the spring of said side bearing assembly is in an uncompressed state and when initial loadings are directed against said side bearing assembly during operation of the railcar on which said side bearing assembly is arranged in operable combination

Claim 19. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein said spring comprises a resilient spring block having a predetermined length and a predetermined cross-sectional shape.

Claim 20. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 19, with the generally flat portion on said cap and said resilient block having interlocking instrumentalities for securing the resilient block and said cap in operable combination relative to each other.

Claim 21. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 19, wherein said resilient spring block is formed from an elastomer material.

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 16

Claim 22. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said housing is configured to promote the dissipation of heat away from said elastomer spring block.

Claim 23. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 21, wherein said cap is configured to promote the dissipation of heat away from said elastomer spring block.

Claim 24. (Canceled).

Claim 25. (Previously Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein said cap is adapted to telescopically move relative to and be guided by the wall structure of said housing, and wherein the wall structure of said housing and said cap are configured to promote the movement of air through said cavity and away from said spring.

Claim 26. (Previously Amended) A constant contact side bearing assembly adapted to be accommodated within a rectangularly shaped, open top receptacle projecting from on an upper surface of a railcar bolster, said receptacle having a pair of generally parallel and spaced side walls

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 17

and a pair of generally parallel and spaced end walls, said constant contact side bearing assembly comprising:

a spring;

a housing ~~with wall structure~~ defining a cavity wherein said spring is accommodated, and wherein ~~the wall structure of~~ said housing has a generally rectangular shape including two side walls sides and two ~~ends walls~~ ends, with each side wall and each end wall of said ~~wall structure~~ housing being disposed to opposite sides of an axis defined by said side bearing assembly and extending generally normal to the upper surface of said bolster, and wherein the generally rectangular shape of ~~the wall structure of~~ said housing loosely fits within said open top receptacle on said bolster;

a cap positioned by and overlying an end of said spring, with said cap being guided for telescopic movements relative to said housing, and with said cap including a generally flat portion defining an upper extreme of said side bearing assembly after said side bearing assembly is arranged in operable combination with said railcar bolster; and

an apparatus for positively securing said housing ~~and positioning said side bearing assembly~~ relative to the railcar bolster.

Claim 27. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein the ~~end walls~~ ends of said housing and the end walls of said receptacle define a

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 18

pair of confronting surfaces disposed therebetween and to opposite sides of said side bearing assembly axis, and wherein said apparatus includes a pair of ~~wedge-shared~~ wedge-shaped shims insertable into an opening defined between the confronting surfaces of each pair of confronting surfaces whereby securing said side bearing assembly to said bolster.

Claim 28. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 26, wherein the ~~end walls~~ ends of said housing and the end walls of said receptacle define a pair of confronting surfaces disposed therebetween and to opposite sides of said side bearing assembly axis, with each pair of confronting surfaces having at least one surface which is inclined with respect to the other surface such that said surfaces diverge away from each other as said surfaces extend away from said upper bolster surface ~~adapted to be engaged by said spring~~ whereby defining a wedge-shaped opening therebetween.

Claim 29. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 28, wherein said apparatus for positively securing the ~~side bearing assembly~~ said housing to the upper surface of said bolster includes spacers insertable into each wedge-shaped opening defined by said confronting surfaces on said housing and said receptacle to inhibit endwise ~~shifting~~ movements movement of side bearing assembly housing relative to said walled enclosure.

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 19

Claim 30. (Original) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 29, wherein each spacer is configured as a wedge shim.

Claim 31 through 34. (Canceled).

Claim 35. (Previously Added) The constant contact side bearing according to Claim 6, wherein said spring has an end adapted for direct engagement with a bolster surface defined within parameters set by said walled receptacle.

Claim 36. (Currently Amended) A The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 13; adapted to be arranged in combination with a railcar bolster with an upper surface, said side bearing assembly comprising:

a housing defining a wherein the recess defined by said walled housing extends extending through said housing and is open at opposite ends, and wherein said housing and a walled receptacle on the upper surface of said bolster define a pair of confronting surfaces arranged on opposed sides of an axis defined by said side bearing assembly and extend generally normal to the upper surface of said bolster;

a spring accommodated within said housing;

inserts for securing said housing of and locating said side bearing assembly within

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 20

the walled receptacle on said bolster, with at least one insert being positionable between said confronting surfaces on the walled receptacle and the housing on each side of said side bearing axis for inhibiting shifting movement of said housing relative to said bolster; and

a cap overlying one end of said spring, said cap being mounted for reciprocatory guided movements by and relative to said housing, with a generally flat railcar body engaging portion on said cap being positioned relative to said housing and said walled receptacle by said spring.

Claim 37. (Previously Added) The constant contact side bearing according to Claim 13, wherein an end of said spring engages a portion of the upper surface on said bolster surrounded by the walled receptacle.

Claim 38. (Currently Amended) The constant contact side bearing according to Claim 26, wherein the recess defined by said walled housing extends through said housing and is open at opposite ends.

Claim 39. (Previously Added) The constant contact side bearing according to Claim 26, wherein an end of said spring engages a portion of the upper surface on said bolster surrounded by the walled receptacle.

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 21

Claim 40. (Currently Amended) A constant contact side bearing assembly adapted to be arranged in combination with a railcar bolster having an upper surface, comprising:

a walled receptacle adapted for securement to the upper surface on said bolster;

a body member defining a recess, with said body member being configured to loosely and telescopically fit within the walled receptacle;

an elastomeric spring accommodated within the recess defined by said body member;

a friction member movable relative to the body member and overlying one end of ~~and for transmitting loads to said spring, with said friction member having a friction surface adapted to be resiliently biased by said spring into contact with an underside of a railcar body; and~~

an apparatus operably engagable between ~~an inner surface on said walled receptacle and an outer surface on said body member for operably securing said body member against shifting relative to said bolster and thereby locating side bearing assembly relative to said bolster.~~

Claim 41. (Previously Added) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 40, wherein said spring comprises a deformable block of elastomeric material for absorbing energy imparted to said side bearing assembly and configured to position said friction member relative to said bolster surface.

Claim 42. (Previously Added) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 22

Claim 40, wherein said friction member is arranged in operable combination with and positions said spring relative to said body member.

Claim 43. (Currently Amended) In combination, a railcar bolster connected to a wheeled truck and a constant contact side bearing assembly, comprising:

a walled receptacle adapted for securement to an upper surface on said bolster;

a housing assembly configured to loosely fit within said walled receptacle, said housing assembly including a friction member having a railcar engaging portion which is spring biased for engagement with an underside of a railcar body supported by and for limiting hunting movements of said wheeled truck, and with said housing assembly further including a ~~hollow~~ base for accommodating a spring used to bias the railcar engaging portion of said friction member into engagement with the underside of the railcar body and for guiding vertical movements of said friction member relative ~~thereto~~ to said base; and

an apparatus disposed between an inner surface on said walled receptacle and an outer surface on said ~~housing assembly~~ base for operably securing said base ~~against movements relative to said railcar bolster~~ and for locating said side bearing assembly relative to the railcar bolster.

Claim 44. (Currently Amended) The side bearing assembly according to Claim 43 wherein said spring extends through said ~~hollow~~ base of said housing assembly such that one end of said

In re Application Of:

W. P. O'Donnell;

P. B. Aspengren

Serial No.: 10/785,097

Page 23

spring abuttingly engages with that portion of the upper surface of said bolster surrounded by said walled receptacle.

Claim 45. (Currently Amended) The side bearing assembly according to Claim 43 wherein said apparatus for operably securing the base of said housing assembly against movements includes at least one insert fixed between the inner surface of said walled receptacle and an outer surface on said ~~housing assembly~~ base.

Claim 46. (New) The constant contact side bearing assembly according to Claim 6, wherein said apparatus includes an insert positionable between each pair of confronting surfaces on opposed sides of the side bearing assembly axis for inhibiting movement of the body member relative to said bolster and locating said side bearing assembly relative to said bolster.